

DECEMBER 8, 1976

# THE RE-NOMINATION OF KURT WALDHEIM

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY HAS THESE THOUGHTS ABOUT THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL'S NOMINATION OF KURT WALDHEIM FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE POST OF SECRETARY-GENERAL:

VOICE: THE PROCEEDINGS BY WHICH THE SECURITY COUNCIL NOMINATES THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL ARE TRADITIONALLY CLOSED. BUT FROM WHAT IS KNOWN, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A COMPARATIVELY PAINLESS PROCESS. AS THEY DID IN NINETEEN SEVENTY-ONE, THE CHINESE BRIEFLY DELAYED THE NOMINATION, PRESUMABLY TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THEY FAVORED A CANDIDATE WITH MORE OF A THIRD WORLD ORIENTATION. BUT ON THE SECOND BALLOT CHINA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SWITCHED TO THE MAJORITY VIEW. IT REMAINED ONLY FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO FORMALLY ELECT MR. WALDHEIM, WHICH IT DID WEDNESDAY.

FOR THOSE WHO REMEMBER THE CONTROVERSY THAT USED TO SURROUND THE CHOICE OF A SECRETARY-GENERAL, THIS UNEVENTFUL PROCESS WILL NO DOUBT BE WELCOME. THOSE WHO LIKE TO THINK THAT RESTRAINT AND SOBRIETY ARE BECOMING MORE EVIDENT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAY DETECT A SIGN OF MATURITY IN THE FACT THAT THE BIG POWERS--WHO DISAGREE ON SO MANY THINGS--CAN AGREE ON THIS. THEY WILL NO DOUBT APPROVE, AS WELL, THE REFUSAL OF U.N. MEMBERS TO ALLOW THE SELECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BECOME ONE MORE POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND THE EMERGING NATIONS.

THERE'S A LONG-STANDING DEBATE ABOUT THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY-GENERAL. ONE VIEW IS THAT HE SHOULD BE NOT MUCH MORE THAN A BUREAUCRATIC FUNCTIONARY. THE SOVIET UNION, IN TIMES PAST, HAS TENDED TO FAVOR THIS VIEW, AND AT ONE POINT TRIED TO NEUTRALIZE THE POST COMPLETELY BY HAVING IT FILLED BY THREE SECRETARIES-GENERAL--EACH WITH A VETO POWER. THE OPPOSING VIEW IS THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OUGHT TO BE AN ACTIVIST, WILLING

TO TAKE INITIATIVES EVEN AT THE RISK OF OFFENDING INFLUENTIAL U.N. MEMBERS AND LOSING OUT ON HIS CHANCES FOR RE-NOMINATION. (OPT) THIS POINT OF VIEW WAS PRESSED BY THE LATE DAG HAMMARSKJOLD-- AND MR. WALDHEIM'S IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR, U THANT, WARNED IN HIS FAREWELL REPORT THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WOULD HAVE TO, AS HE PUT IT, "PLAY MORE OF A POLITICAL ROLE." (END OPT)

THE RISK OF THE FIRST COURSE IS, OBVIOUSLY, CREEPING PARALYSIS-- THE U.N. REDUCED TO A MERE DEBATING SOCIETY, HELPLESSLY PRESIDED OVER BY A FIGUREHEAD EXECUTIVE. THE RISK OF THE SECOND COURSE IS THE POLITICALIZATION OF THE U.N. UNDER ONE-SIDED LEADERSHIP, SOMETHING WHICH COULD DESTROY IT. DOCTOR WALDHEIM, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY KEPT TO THE MIDDLE TRACK. AND WHILE HIS STEWARDSHIP MAY NOT BE QUITE AS EXCITING OR CONTROVERSIAL AS THAT OF HIS PREDECESSORS, THERE IS GENERAL BELIEF THAT HE IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE OF THE U.N.'S HISTORY. TUESDAY'S ALMOST UNANIMOUS ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL -- WEDNESDAY'S BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM THIS VIEW.